

## **ECOSYSTEM STATUS INDICATORS**

### ***Seabirds***

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The 2005 seabird section provides information on incidental catch estimates, colony trend data for select seabird colonies, and a review of other work being completed. Readers interested in a discussion of seabird foraging and effects of food limitations on seabird populations should refer to the extensive information provided in the 2000 Ecosystem chapter (NPFMC 2000). Readers interested in fishery/seabird geographical overlap can rely on the discussion provided in the 2002 chapter (NPFMC 2002).

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) is the lead Federal agency for managing and conserving seabirds and is responsible for monitoring distribution, abundance, and population trends. The U. S. Geologic Survey – Biological Resources Division (USGS-BRD) plays a critical role in seabird research in Alaskan waters in support of these activities, focusing primarily on seabird colonies. Additionally, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), with its fisheries management responsibilities, plays a critical role in working with industry and other agencies to focus on characterizing seabird incidental takes and reducing incidental takes (bycatch) in commercial fisheries.